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population is based partly on estimate, partly on official calculation, and only partly on enumeration. The enumerations or censuses vary in exactness, in technical method, in completeness and in variety of observation. It is only after this laborious consideration of the method of observation that we get to the results of population statistics, such as the population of different countries, rate of increase, density, distribution in city and country, and classification by sex, age, conjugal condition, nationality, domicile, birthplace, occupation, *etc.* The rest of the volume treats in a similar way of births, deaths and marriages; while for a third volume are reserved moral, intellectual, economic and political statistics.

It has seemed best in this review simply to indicate Dr. von Mayr's method. It remains to be added that this is carried out with great thoroughness. The book is a most complete encyclopædia of statistical facts. The bibliography is exhaustive, and is given piecemeal in connection with each section. This necessitates an enormous amount of repetition of titles, but renders reference to specific topics extremely easy. The critical apparatus sometimes appears a little ponderous, but it is as important in the present state of statistical knowledge to know what the figures do not show as to know what they do show. No one who wishes his statistical knowledge of social phenomena to be critical and exact can afford to neglect this work, even if he uses it only as an encyclopædia.

RICHMOND MAYO-SMITH.

Wesen und Zweck der Politik, als Theil der Sociologie und Grundlage der Staatswissenschaften. Von GUSTAV RATZENHOFER. Brockhaus, Leipzig, 1893.—Drei Bände, pp. i-x, 400, 363, 475.

This treatise on political philosophy takes the same general standpoint as that which is found in Willoughby's much more compendious volume on *The Nature of the State*. According to Ratzenhofer, the nature and purpose of public policy has to be determined (1) by studying the sociological foundations of organized authority; (2) by defining the universal elements inherent in public policy itself, including political individuality, interests, conflicts, systems; (3) by describing the state as the organized form within which the political functions have their scope and development as part of the social process. The author here gives prominence to the play of those political interests on the basis of which parties are organized, and discusses the functions of the two great divisions of political popula-

tion — the party in power and the opposition party. Considerable space is devoted to the subject of party tactics in both divisions of political influence.

The second volume is taken up with the foreign or external policy of the state and with the general social policy within the state. The second half of this volume goes rather fully into the relations of the public authority to such general social factors as nationality, religious confession, race, "*zeitgeist*," aggregations of capital, "terrorism" and all that is comprised under communistic, ecclesiastical, humanitarian and cultural tendencies in the highly complex modern state.

The third volume alone treats of the second part of the subject — the purposes of the political power in the state. Yet this is by far the most suggestive portion of the work. We have (1) the purpose of politics in general; (2) the internal policy of the civilized state; (3) the external policy of the civilized state; (4) the social policy of the civilized state, including the relations of the political authority to economic corporations, the ecclesiastical authorities and the cultural antagonisms peculiar to the composite state; and (5) a concluding critique on civilization, ending with a sociological survey of socialism, communism and individualism.

These volumes furnish new evidence that the sociological standpoint has become sufficiently differentiated from that which regards the state as the most general form within which the life of society may be systematically considered. Taken together with Barth's recent volume on *Geschichte der Philosophie als Sociologie*, it would seem that sociology is gradually, though not always intentionally, being differentiated from other fields of research by those working therein quite as truly as by the sociologists themselves. Ratzenhofer's conception of sociology is in the main naturalistic: for him sociology affords the natural background, a basis upon which we may work out a science of politics which is essentially a science of social conflict.

JOHN FRANKLIN CROWELL.

NEW YORK CITY.

L'Enseignement primaire dans les pays civilisés. Par E. LEVASSEUR. Paris, Berger-Levrault et Cie, 1897. — 628 pp.

For many years the distinguished French savant and statistician, M. Levasseur, has devoted attention to the question of public education. Himself for many years engaged in secondary and later in the higher education, a profound student of social history (*vide L'Histoire des classes ouvrières en France*), an accomplished economist